Columbia Seminary Vantage

DR. J. DAVISON PHILIPS ASSUMES PRESIDENCY

Reaffirming Columbia Seminary's continuing loyalty to the parish ministry as his own, Dr. J. Davison Philips, for more than 21 years the pastor of the Decatur Presbyterian Church, assumed the Presidency of Columbia Seminary in early January and immediately announced plans to visit other seminaries, both within and beyond our denomination in order to acquaint himself with the broad spectrum of theological education.

Discussing the needs of Columbia Dr. Philips said, "I see four areas of concentrated effort which will focus my work at Columbia: to expand Continuing Education for pastors in the field who need to sharpen their tools for the tremendous demand placed upon them; to strengthen further Columbia's relationship with the Church which supports it in seven states through three Synods; ever to increase the financial resources of Columbia so we may continue to serve and train at the highest level; to recruit the finest men and women so the Church can have the best leadership possible."

Dr. Philips continued, "Both because of its tradition and location, Columbia has a magnificent opportunity for service during this latter part of the Twentieth Century . . . As I hold in the highest regard pastors who serve in the front line of the Church, so I covet for them the best possible training during their Seminary years and later through Continuing Education. This puts the responsibility upon Columbia to serve them and the Church. As we have met that responsibility over past years, I dedicate myself to help Columbia meet that responsibility in the days ahead."

In presenting Dr. Philips to the Seminary community following his election, J. Erskine Love, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Directors, paid tribute to Dr. C. Benton Kline, Jr., who has resigned the Presidency in order to resume full-time teaching of Theology at Columbia, "Ben Kline served Columbia faithfully and unceasingly. We are grateful he will still be a part of the Seminary community in the days ahead."

J. Erskine Love, Jr. and Dr. Philips

Dr. Philips

ALUMNI LEAD GIVING INCREASE

Giving by Columbia's Alumni during the first half of this fiscal year is in excess of $12,600, approaching the $14,000 total for *all* of last year. This has come from 185 contributors and will certainly surpass the 223 contributors of last year.

General giving to Columbia's Living Endowment fund is keeping pace with last year's 50% increase and stands at just under $32,000 for the first six months of this year.

A special effort by members of the Board of Directors to generate new money beyond sources already contributing has generated almost $24,000 already, with many of the areas not yet reporting.

Progress so far is good, but Columbia needs every gift it can receive.

COLUMBIA HONORS RETIRING FACULTY WALLACE AND McMICHAEL

More than 150 of Columbia's Alumni gathered at the Seminary on Wednesday, January 28, to hear the first of four lectures on "Finding the Point Again in the Church" given by Dr. Wallace M. Alston, Jr., pastor of the Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey.

At the luncheon tribute was paid to Drs. Jack McMichael and Ronald Wallace upon their retirement from Columbia Seminary.

Dr. Wallace has been Professor of Biblical Theology at Columbia since 1964, following several pastorates in Scotland. He formerly was the Director of the **Scottish Journal of Theology** and has published seven books. Even though retiring, Dr. Wallace will remain at Columbia for the academic year 1976-77 as a Visiting Professor.

Dr. McMichael, Associate Professor of Christian Education and Church Administration since 1968, and currently Dean of Ministry Development, has previously served several pastorates as well as the Board of Christian Education prior to coming to Columbia.

Recognition well-deserved by both professors was paid by Dr. Dewitz to Dr. Wallace and by Dr. Ormond to Dr. McMichael.

Prof. Wallace

Prof. McMichael

FROM the PRESIDENT

If I believed in strange and alarming omens, I might have been worried on January 8th. On that day we moved to the President's house on the Columbia Seminary Campus, and the thermometer plunged to a record setting low of 9 degrees!

In reality, however, Kay and I have felt much warmth in the welcome to this great task which we share. From both church and campus, we have received prayerful support and an assurance of partnership in many forms. At the direction of the Board I have visited a number of Seminaries and enjoyed stimulating discussions with Presidents, Deans, Faculty and students. Over the next few weeks, I will continue this until I have talked with representatives of Union, Richmond, Louisville, Austin, Princeton and several non-Presbyterian institutions as well.

As I begin several convictions are being confirmed: 1. Preparation for ministry is one of the Church's major tasks. 2. Ministry in our church and in our world is of great importance with tremendous opportunities. 3. I am grateful to God for the way he has worked in the 21 years of pastoral ministry I have shared with Decatur Presbyterian Church. This validates, I believe, the importance of our task. 4. Columbia has a unique and demanding part in these things. 5. I need your wisdom, prayers and help if we are to respond to God's call to us with both insight and effectiveness.

Dr. Kline continues to improve and is giving me much valuable help in this transition. With an affirmation of both faith and hope, I am
Faithfully yours,

J. Davison Philips

J. Davison Philips

THE PAST SERVES THE PRESENT- WILL THE PRESENT SERVE THE FUTURE?

For 39 years Dr. Edgar D. Kerr served Columbia Seminary as Professor of Old Testament Language, Literature and Exegesis as a distinguished member of the faculty. Following his death in 1954 his wife, Mrs. Lucille W. Kerr, continued in that path of service to Columbia through extensive financial support. Following her death in July, 1975, Columbia was informed that she had remembered the Seminary in her will in the amount of $300,000. This means the Seminary will forever receive support in its task of educating for ministry because of what both of the Kerrs have done.

No one can provide ministers for tomorrow except those who support theological education today. As you write your wills to provide for family, have you remembered Columbia Seminary? It is today's commitment which will serve Columbia and the Church of Jesus Christ tomorrow.

THE FACULTY 1949
Seated left to right: Gutzke, Cartledge, Green, Richards, Kerr, Robinson. Standing left to right: Taylor, Gear, Thompson.

COLUMBIA STUDENT HOLDS WORLD COUNCIL OFFICE

At the recent meeting of the World Council of Churches in Nairobi, Africa, the Rev. Margaret Barnes Peery, a Th.M. student in counseling at Columbia, was elected to the Central Committee. Prior to beginning her Th.M. Mrs. Peery did a year of clinical work at Wesley Woods in Atlanta. Mrs. Peery earned her M.Div. from Union Seminary in Richmond. Her husband is the Rev. Albert Gillespie Peery, Jr., who is Associate Pastor of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, Atlanta.

COLUMBIA GIVERS EXCEED NORM

Comparisons do not always prove something, but it is interesting to note the generosity of those who give to Columbia compared to those who support a large university in upstate New York. In analyzing the giving of its alumni the University of Rochester determined that its average alumni gift was $45. Going further it indicated that those who graduated from the medical school gave at a per capita rate of $80. Columbia's graduates make considerably less money than those in the medical profession yet their average gift to Columbia is $70 a year, while all other contributors to Columbia average just a bit more than $100 a year.

CFC OFFICERS PLAN ANNUAL VISIT

Under the leadership of Mrs. Frances Cox of Climax, Georgia, President of the Columbia Friendship Circle, the officers of CFC met at Columbia on January 7, to lay the plans for this year's Annual Come-See-Columbia Day. Joining Mrs. Cox were Vice-President, Mrs. Harriet Moore of Mobile, Ala., and Secretary-Historian, Mrs. Ruth Esche of Marietta, Ga.

Plans include a proposed project for 1976-77, a modification in the By-laws to adjust CFC's fiscal year and program plans for the day of the visit. At their all-day meeting Dr. J. Davison Philips, Columbia's new President, greeted them briefly and wished them well in their efforts. April 22 should be a big day in the life of CFC.

COLUMBIA'S CONFERENCE ON MINISTRY

For Post-College Adults Considering Service to the Church

April 30 May 1 - 2 1976

Write for details

THREE CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES COMING SOON AT COLUMBIA

(For further information and registration forms contact Dean Jack B. McMichael at the Seminary.)

PASTORAL CARE — A 10 hour seminar led by Professor Thomas McDill on "the contribution of current developments in Psychotherapy for Pastoral Care" and related concerns in the field. It will cover current issues and literature in the field. Opportunities for personal interviews. Dr. McDill is a leader in the field of clinical counseling and serves on both local and national committees. He has been on the Columbia faculty since 1951.

— February 24-27, 1976 —

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION — A 30 hour seminar led by Dr. Gary M. Gray, Director, the National Institute on Church Management, covering purpose, motivation and process in Church management, organization, planning and communication in the Church. Approved by National Association of Church Business Administrators for credit. May be taken for 2 qtr. hrs. credit by Seminary students.

— May 4-7, 1976 —

CONFESSIONS — An 8 hour seminar led by Professor Shirley Guthrie studying the Westminster Confession of Faith in comparison with other Reformed Confessions, including the Declaration of Faith now before the PCUS. This seminar will meet in the afternoons with the mornings free for study. Dr. Guthrie has been Professor of Theology at Columbia since 1958, having earned his Th.D. at the University of Basel. Besides translating works by both Karl Barth and Oscar Cullman, he has published *Priests Without Robes, the Priesthood of Believers.*

— May 10-13, 1976 —

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